

being Filipino America. All of us must work to stop this hatred.

And yet, as always, we have seen a resilient community persevere through all. In my own district, I have joined my friends for community clean up days at the Filipino Community Center to help protect and promote their heritage. With my colleagues in the House, I have reintroduced our Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act, which seeks to reunite Filipino soldiers with their children.

All of this is why I recently joined my friend and colleague Congresswoman YOUNG KIM in introducing H. Res. 724, a bipartisan resolution to express support for the designation of October as Filipino American History Month. We urge our colleagues' support to promote an ongoing appreciation of the contributions of Filipino Americans to our country and the rich diversity of our Nation.

To Fil-Ams everywhere, Maraming Salamat Po and Dios Ti Agngina, congratulations. I truly look forward to partnering with them on their next proud chapters.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. AGATHA  
SHORTER-LEWIS

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the life of Mrs. Agatha Shorter-Lewis, a member of CA-24's NAACP Branch. Mrs. Shorter-Lewis has been described as "a social justice, human and civil rights champion," because of her hard work fighting for equal rights throughout the Central Coast. Agatha Noel Shorter-Lewis was born in Los Angeles, California on September 7, 1950, to Leon and Martha Shorter. As a young woman, she studied at a community college in the Los Angeles area, transferred to the University of California, Santa Barbara and earned a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1975.

In 1973, Mrs. Shorter-Lewis began volunteering with Santa Barbara County Probation Department, interned with them in 1974 and in 1975 at the age of 24, she took the test for Deputy Probation Officer II and scored 1#. On January 20, 1976, Mrs. Shorter-Lewis was sworn in as the first Black female Deputy Probation Officer hired by Santa Barbara County. Her first assignment was working with Juveniles.

In an April 2001, Santa Maria Times newspaper article, Mrs. Shorter-Lewis recounted her time at the Probation Department noting one case stands out: "A boy, who just wouldn't go to school and was giving his parents, school administrators and teachers chaos. She told him, 'Listen, if you don't get up and go to school on time, I'm going to have to get there to your house and when you turn over, I'm going to be in bed with you, because I told you to get up and go to school.'" The young man thought she was playing with him and wasn't going to do it. Early one morning his mom called saying he wouldn't get out of bed. She told his mom "I'm on my way" and when she arrived at the house, she told the mom "don't wake him up anymore, begging him to go to school" and eased up in bed with him. When he turned over, he said "Oh, Oh,

Miss Shorter, Miss Shorter, I'm going to school, I'm going to school." She said, "sure you are going to school because I'm going to wait right here until you get up." She drove the boy to school that day and his mother never had problems with him again.

While at Probation, Mrs. Shorter-Lewis helped countless youth and their families changing their lives through dedication and caring while providing structure to help them reach their full potential. Mrs. Shorter-Lewis served the last 8 years with the department in the Adult Investigation Unit, investigating felony offenses, and determining whether or not to grant probation. She represented Probation in Court once a week as a Hearing Officer in Judge Rogelio Flores courtroom.

Mrs. Shorter-Lewis served 27 years as Deputy Probation Officer, retiring on April 27, 2001, due to health issues.

Mrs. Shorter-Lewis married Rev. Henry Littleton Lewis, Jr. on January 16, 1993. Their wedding was the biggest wedding event in Santa Maria, with 25 bridesmaids many of whom were Judges, attorneys, and Probation Officers and more than 1,000 guests in attendance. One of her biggest joys was on September 12, 2013, when Rev. Lewis became Pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church and she became First Lady of the church, a position she absolutely treasured. She was an active church member, and in her own words she served in every office of the church but "Pastor!" In addition to First Lady, at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, she served in the capacity of Church Clerk, Sunday School Teacher, Women's Ministry President, Program Committee Chair, and Women's Choir. She was also active with Coast Counties District Association serving as local president, District President, Minister's Wives Chairperson, and on various activity planning committees. At the State Baptist level, she was Vice-President of the Women's Department, Chair of Advisory Council of past Presidents, Serendipity Speaker and Teacher. At the National Baptist level, she was a delegate representing California State Baptist many times, Queen candidate for the Women's Department under Women's President Sister Alma Tate. With Rev. Lewis untimely death on September 13, 2013, Mrs. Shorter-Lewis First Lady position ended; however, she remained an active leader and member of the church.

In addition to church, Mrs. Lewis was very active in the community. After being sworn in as a Deputy Probation Officer, Mrs. Shorter-Lewis moved to Santa Maria. Once in Santa Maria, she tried renting a home, but each time would be denied when she showed up and the owner saw she was African American. She did not let blatant racism deter her instead renting an apartment for two years and then becoming a homeowner before age 30. She was a lifetime/lifelong member of the National Association For the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and made history again as the Santa Maria-Lompoc Branch second President in 1981 at the age of 31. Under her presidency the Branch's annual professional fashion show was born, an event that allowed the community to come out, get dressed up, enjoy dinner and the latest fashions from all over the world while supporting the Branch and the Branch's Scholarship recipients. Since its inception, the annual Fashion Show has awarded hundreds of scholarships to underserved youth to attend college and it continues 37

years later. When Mrs. Shorter-Lewis's presidency ended in 1984, she continued her advocacy serving as first vice-president from 1985 to 1988, second vice president from 1989 to 1990, on the Executive Committee from 1991 to 2018, and as Executive Committee Emeritus from 2019 to her untimely death on October 5, 2021. In each role, she was always a Drum Major for Justice answering every call she was asked to do.

Continuing as a trailblazer, Mrs. Shorter-Lewis was a business owner of Almagathai Ladies' Hats & Suits, Men's Ties and Jewelry along with her best friend, Mrs. Alma Tate. Mrs. Shorter-Lewis loved cruises and vacations and celebrated many birthdays on cruise ships including her 30th, 50th and 60th. On one of those cruises, she was crowned the ship's queen. She and Rev. Lewis spent their 20th wedding anniversary in Hawaii.

Mrs. Shorter-Lewis was known by most people, well respected in the community, larger than life, outgoing, family and people oriented, with a bubbly personality, a disarming smile, was a dynamic public speaker, very assertive, compassionate, a good listener able to discern truth. She celebrated many family vacations and reunions, chaired extra-large celebrations for her family and friends including her sister Carolyn's 65th birthday, numerous retirement celebrations for her friends, 75/76th birthday celebration for her friend and arranged for the community to attend the play "The Color Purple" in Los Angeles on a chartered bus.

Over her lifetime, Mrs. Shorter-Lewis, received numerous community awards and recognitions including awards from the Santa Maria-Lompoc Branch, City of Santa Maria, and Vision of Hope, among others.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN JERAN  
AKERS, RECIPIENT OF TEXAS'  
THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
2021 CONGRESSIONAL VET-  
ERAN COMMENDATION

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, it is my privilege to honor fifteen distinguished military veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District who answered the call to serve their Nation honorably, both in uniform and following their return to civilian life. The recipients of the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation exemplify the time-honored qualities of patriotism, service before self, and bold leadership. Following their time in service, their efforts in our community have earned these fine individuals recognition as the recipients of this prestigious commendation. Their stories of sacrifice will encourage future generations to pursue a life dedicated to the very values we cherish as Americans: faith, freedom, and democracy. One such hero is Captain Jeran Akers of Plano, Texas.

During his time as a student at the University of Alabama, Jeran Akers, would begin his path to defending our nation by serving as a member of the Air Force ROTC and the Arnold Air Society. Later, while on active duty from 1969 to 1973, Captain Akers, would earn a Master of Arts in Public Administration. One of his most notable posts was overseeing one

of our nation's largest stockpiles of missiles at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

Captain Akers' military decorations include the National Defense Service Medal and Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

Following his time in service, Akers relocated to Texas where he operated a successful small business. In 1993, he would embark on a new mission following his election to the Plano City Council where he served as both Deputy Mayor Pro Tem and Mayor. During his time as Mayor, he founded the Collin County Mayors' Alliance and was credited with bringing the Dr Pepper headquarters to town.

In 2002, Captain Akers was diagnosed with a lung disease that would eventually result in a double lung transplant. His unique experience generated a new passion for organ donation advocacy and he remains a staunch supporter for the cause. Akers also served in the role of President and CEO of the Celina Chamber of Commerce until his recent retirement. In his personal life, Jeran is the proud father of three children with whom he has instilled a love of country. His eldest son Tyler followed in his father's footsteps by joining the Air Force, and his younger son, Josh, is a fallen Marine. Today, Jeran, and his wife, Victoria, continue spending time in the community and enjoying their five grandchildren. Captain Akers has been a steadfast example of service before self both to his nation and through his dedication to involvement within our local community.

Today a grateful Nation thanks Captain Akers for his exceptional service and congratulates him on this recognition. May his steadfast example of leadership inspire others to live a life of service to a cause greater than themselves. It is my extreme honor to award him the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

#### THE COURTS SPORTS COMPLEX

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 28, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Courts Sports Complex of Northglenn, Colorado for receiving the City of Northglenn Investment Award.

The Northglenn Investment award is given to a Northglenn business that has made significant investments to improve their business or in the community. This year, the award is being presented to The Courts Sports Complex. This state-of-the-art, multipurpose sports facility is a welcomed addition to the Northglenn community. It hosts thousands of eager spectators and athletes alike each year. The massive 32,000 square foot complex can host basketball, volleyball, and several other sports to create Colorado's next great athletes.

I would like to extend a personal congratulations to the team over at The Courts Sports Complex for receiving this award. They are certainly deserving of all this recognition and more. I would also like to thank them for being such outstanding leaders in the community, and for helping to bring recreation and jobs to Northglenn. I wish The Courts Sports Complex nothing but the best in the future, as they con-

tinue to be a favorite spot for athletes of all ages.

#### HONORING THE WORLD WAR II, KOREAN WAR, AND VIETNAM WAR VETERANS OF ILLINOIS

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 28, 2021*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans who traveled to Washington, D.C. on October 27, 2021 with Honor Flight Chicago, a program that provides World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans the opportunity to visit their memorials on The National Mall in Washington, D.C. These memorials were built to honor their courage and service to their country.

The American Veteran is one of our greatest treasures. The Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who traveled here on October 27th answered our nation's call to service during one of its greatest times of need. From the European Campaign to the Pacific Asian Theatre to the African Theater, these brave Americans risked life and limb, gave service and sacrificed much, all while embodying what it is to be a hero. We owe them more gratitude than can ever be expressed.

I welcome these brave veterans to Washington and to their memorials. I am proud to include in the RECORD the names of these men and women for all to see, hear, and recognize, and I call on my colleagues to rise and join me in expressing gratitude.

Franklin Adams, Joseph Addante, George Anel, Charles Battaglia, Martin Behn, Margaret Bernal, Willie Berry, James Frederick Bolender, Charles Balwin, Steven Bravo, Roger R. Brinker, Robert Brown, Frank S. Buday, Jimmy D. Cagle, Ramon N. Calderon, Andrew P. Chengary, Terrance L. Chenore, Daniel Ciszek, Glenn Allen Clausel, Jacques William Coakley, James Conaway, Wade Cooper Jr., Joseph Corrigan, Kenneth E. Cramer, Randall Cromwell, Charles F. Cusumano, Marco Dabatic, James Daly, Clement J. Davis, Irving Frank Dewald, Frank Dudek, Sel W. Dunlap Jr., William C. Ouray, John Francis Dwyer Jr., Ansel Howard Eddin, Robert L. Falkenberg, Gordon S. Farrant, Raymond Franco, Raymond Lee Frerichs, Howard A. Fry, David Grauer, Theodore P. Gray, William D. Greenwald, Robert J. Grega, Melvin Hampton, Brent L. Harris, Ralph O. Heatherington, Gerald A. Holcomb, John R. Horner, Richard Kalamir, Ronald Kamykowski, Thomas J. Kelly, Alex Koplinski, Robert Kosciak, Frank Kusbel, Herbert Landy, Jon Lapo, Ronald E. Lefman, David Lindberg, Louis Mack, Michael John Mahoney, William E. Martin, Joseph Mata Jr., Fred V. McClintock, Richard J. Melford, William A. Meloy, Lucian M. Michichic, Joseph F. Milcarek, Francis Raymond Misischia, Norman Moret, Neal E. Morgan, Gary A. Nielsen, Nicholas L. Pappalas, Louis J. Pauly, Juan Peña, Robert G. Peterson, William Francis Pietrowicz, Thaddeus J. Piwowar, Joseph L. Raftery Jr., Robert Reczek, Robert Reger, Joseph Michael Rogers, Steven D. Rogers, Bernard Rosenblum, Robert Wayne Roswold, Harry Sandberg, Robert Sansone, Joseph M. Shone, John Sintich, Michael Siorek, Marvin D. Skidmore, Richard Smerz, Dennis J. Sroka,

Robert Elliott Sussman, Ken Swierczek, Gerald M. Taylor, Thomas Testolin, Daniel Jerome Tomasik, Joseph Vazzana, George Venetis, Roy Joseph Veverka, Terrence Raymond Verderer, Bernard Lee Walat, William Wall, Lawrence Waska, James W. Weinstein, Larry D. Welsh, Edward F. Wicherek, Paul Wilczenski, Johnny L. Williams, DeNorris Williams, William W. Wilson, Gerald M. Wilstein, Thomas Wysocki, Richard E. Zabelski, Thomas S. Zaczekiewicz, Thomas Anthony Zeman, and John Zero.

#### HONORING RABBI NEIL BRIEF

### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 28, 2021*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Rabbi Neil Brief's service to Ezra Hahonim Niles Township Jewish Congregation and the Skokie, Illinois community. In 1971 Rabbi Brief became the Rabbi for the Congregation, and he became Rabbi Emeritus in 2004.

Rabbi Brief overcame poverty as a child and developed his leadership skills by becoming president of the Brooklyn Brownsville Boys Club and coaching two club championship basketball teams.

He attended New York University and distinguished himself at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion through his study of numerology, which he later adapted to meet the needs of his congregants. He worked throughout his higher education, as a waiter, busboy, camp counselor and teaching religious school. He then served his country as an Army Chaplain, counseling soldiers of all faiths and rising to the rank of Captain within two years.

Rabbi Brief helped bring people together. He brought Skokie's clergy closer together through spearheading the creation of and serving as president of the Niles Township Clergy Forum. And he helped strengthen his congregants' marriages through his leadership in Jewish Marriage encounter.

Rabbi Brief helped lead and serve his community through his work with the Skokie Commission on Family Services, the Rotary Club, the United Way of Skokie Valley and many other service organizations.

He has always stood by those who were oppressed and through his congregational, interfaith, political and humanist work, helped create Skokie spirit and become a true leader in the community. He helped organize rallies drawing thousands of people to protest prejudice in the community.

Rabbi Brief trained as a Reform rabbi and is a member of the rabbinical organizations of Judaism's Reform, Conservative, and Reconstructionist.

Rabbi Brief and his beloved late wife Erica, raised three children in Skokie—Dena, David, and Debra—all of whom graduated from Niles North High School. They were married for 57 years.

On this momentous occasion, I wish to congratulate Rabbi Neil Briefs 50 years of service to Ezra Hahonim Niles Township Jewish Congregation and the Skokie, Illinois community. He has been a treasured friend to me and my family, and an inspiring leader in our community.